

# THE BEAT



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## HCPD WRAPS-UP A SUCCESSFUL 2008

The year 2008 was a successful and busy one for the Howard County Police Department. With the support of County Executive Ken Ulman and the members of the county council, the department was able to implement a host of programs and initiatives to better serve the citizens of Howard County.

**Additional police officer positions approved-** Executive Ulman and the council approved 22 additional police officer positions for 2008, bringing the two-year increase of the police force to 54 additional officers. The HCPD now has an authorized strength of 444 sworn officers.

In addition to adding depth to specialty sections to the police department, the department will be using the officers to increase patrol staffing. This increase, which also will include a reconfiguration of beats, will mark the first significant change in patrol staffing in more than 15 years and should be implemented in the early months of 2009.

The child abuse, domestic violence and gang units also were augmented to address increases in those types of crimes.

**Partnership with Howard Community College for police recruits degree program-** Upon completion of the academy, qualified police recruits will now obtain an Associate's degree from Howard Community College. The academy class that began in July 2008 was the first group eligible to take advantage of this program. Since implemented, numbers of applicants have increased dramatically.

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*In 2008, 22 additional police officer positions were approved in the county budget by Executive Ken Ulman and the county council. The department plans to increase patrol staffing and add depth to specialty units.*

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE *BY CHIEF WILLIAM MCMAHON*



In our cover story this month I hope you'll read about all of our accomplishments in 2008. It was a busy year and I'm proud of all we were able to achieve together. But it's not only important to look back at our successes, it's also essential that we keep looking forward. We have even more big plans for 2009.

Patrol redeployment will be a significant project affecting many of our members. Our goal is to divide our resources as equitably as possible, considering various factors like calls for service and the addition of more officers in patrol. We expect these changes to be rolled out over a period of months and we will keep you apprised of the plans as we move forward.

We are creating a R.O.P.E. section to more proactively deal with repeat offenders and career criminals. We also will continue to improve other specialty units, including domestic violence, family crimes, computer crimes and gang investigations.

The department is hiring a civilian language outreach employee to address the needs of the county's growing non-English speaking Hispanic population. One of our primary challenges is communicating with foreign-language speakers who need assistance. The new language outreach employee will be available 40 hours a week to respond in the

field to calls for service that require translation.

A new police simulation training area will soon be completed at the Robey Public Safety Training Center. This area, which includes a simulated bank, hotel, townhouse, warehouse, tot-lot, and convenience store, will give a real-life training experience to recruits and officers.

The department will soon officially and publicly launch a comprehensive tip line to replace the multiple tip lines previously used by the department. The new line will combine tips for school violence, underage drinking, gang activity, gun information and Spanish-speaking citizens. People can now conveniently use a universal telephone number for tips about any and all crime: 410-313-STOP.

We also are working to expand Project Lifesaver to include adult individuals with mental disorders, such as dementia and Alzheimer's. Until now the program has focused on locating lost or missing children with autism, but we very much want to add the vulnerable adult population as well.

Down the road, we would like to offer enhanced crisis intervention training to assist officers in dealing with calls involving mental illness. While this is still in the research phase, it is something I expect we will implement in the future.

This is only the beginning of a new and exciting year at the Howard County Police Department. I truly appreciate all of your hard work in 2008 and I thank you in advance for your efforts in 2009. With your continued dedication and support, I know the coming year will be a great one.

## NEW HCPD PROMOTIONS

The following HCPD members were recently promoted by Chief William McMahon:

**To the rank of Captain:**  
Daniel Coon

**To the rank of Lieutenant:**  
Joseph Gibbons

**To the rank of Sergeant:**  
Victor Broccolino

**To the rank of Corporal:**  
Joseph King  
Daryn Trout

Congratulations to these fine officers and best of luck in their new roles!

2008, from cover

**Creation of senior liaison officer-** To address crime issues and a fear of crime facing the growing senior population, the department added a senior liaison officer to focus on the unique needs of this community.

**Creation of a firearms investigations officer-** With the assistance of a state grant, a firearms investigator was added to investigate any crimes that involve the use of a firearm.

**Creation of the multi-cultural liaison officer-** With the growing diversity of citizens living in the county, the department created a position to directly relate to this group. The officer provides community outreach, identifies specific needs of each community, and ensures that adequate police resources are directed towards the various LEP groups.

**Creation of a multi-cultural council-** In order to reach out and establish a liaison with the diverse population in Howard County, Chief McMahon established a multi-cultural council. The group includes representatives from the Latino, Korean, Muslim, African-American and Asian communities. The council will meet on a regular basis for information sharing and addressing specific needs facing various populations.

**Translation of the HCPD Web site-** The police department's Web site, www.HCPD.org, was updated to be easily translated into Korean or Spanish. With one click on the home page, the site is completely translated into the visitor's choice of the two languages.

**Implementation of the Taser program-** The department added the Taser weapon to the use of force options available to officers. The program started with the patrol force testing 26 Tasers and has increased to the current number of 44. The program has seen great success, with fewer injuries to suspects and officers.

**Domestic Violence Lethality Screening-** The police department partnered with the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County Jan. 1, 2008 and began utilizing the Domestic Violence Lethality Screen for First Responders. Through the utilization of the Lethality Assessment Program, which is being administered by patrol officers to victims and survivors of domestic violence, 62 percent of victims spoke to a hotline counselor and 21 percent sought services offered by the Domestic Violence Center during the first three quarters of 2008.

**Traffic safety campaign-** The department launched a public awareness campaign targeting traffic safety. Most of the deaths that occur in the county are attributed to traffic collisions, not violent crime. The department, with funding from the Horizon Foundation, created bumper stickers and road signs, held press conferences, and conducted training in high schools, all to raise awareness about driving safely on our roadways.

**HCPD placed first in National Chief's Challenge-** The police department took first place in the International Chiefs of Police Association's National Chief's Challenge. The award recognized the department's comprehensive efforts in promoting traffic safety through education, enforcement and public awareness.

**Crime lab's fingerprint success-** With the implementation of the new Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System (MAFIS), the crime lab had a number of successes in closing out cold case rapes and burglaries.



*Korean and Spanish translation buttons added to the HCPD Web site are just one of numerous projects implemented by the HCPD in 2008.*

## DRIVING SIMULATOR OFFERS INNOVATIVE WAY TO SUPPLEMENT TRADITIONAL POLICE DRIVER TRAINING



*The Education and Training Division's new PatrolSim IV police driving simulator's cockpit-style display offers a realistic driving experience.*

The Education and Training Division has added a new twist to their driver education curriculum with the addition of the PatrolSim IV police driving simulator. The sophisticated simulator was added to complement traditional driver training in order to improve driving and driver judgment skills in a precisely controlled, cost-effective way that is liability and injury free.

“As officers, we spend such a large amount of time driving,” said Lt. Bob Wagner of the Education and Training Division. “It is vitally important to incorporate training that targets the skills we use on a daily basis.”

The system uses three high-resolution, 43-inch monitors in a cockpit-style setup that can emulate a variety of vehicles, including the department's Ford Crown Victoria and Dodge Charger police vehicles. The system incorporates realistic emergency equipment, such as a radio, mobile data computer simulator, and lights and siren, all of which create an extremely accurate and realistic visual and driving experience.

The software for the simulator utilizes physics-based vehicle dynamics and environments for added reality. The simulator's driving environments include highway, rural, suburban, residential and industrial locations. Once a scenario has begun, a simulator instructor can include and control situations that would either be too dangerous, impractical, expensive or impossible to recreate in real-world driver training such as tire failures, overheating, loss of brakes and road hazards. The instructor also can instantly change driving conditions to almost any conceivable weather condition and level of visibility, as well as change from day to night.

Driving scenarios can include routine driving, traffic stops, emergency responses and vehicle pursuits, where the instructor can even control the fleeing vehicle themselves. The scenario can then be played back from virtually any view or angle for evaluation of driving skills, critical thinking ability, response to road hazards and tactical decisions at the end of the scenarios.

The current Police Academy 33 is the first class to use the simulator in conjunction with their standard real-life EVOC training. Lt. Wagner also is planning to incorporate the simulator as a tool for remedial driver training as well as in upcoming in-service training classes.

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SECTION RECEIVES PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION

The HCPD traffic enforcement section received a plaque of appreciation from Howard County Police Foundation member Bob Henig for their assistance with the recent *Ride for Kids* in Howard County. Henig is a board member for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, which benefitted from the Ride. In all, more than 600 motorcycles participated in the event, which ran smoothly and safely, thanks to dozens of officers and auxiliary personnel that performed traffic control functions at intersections and crossroads throughout the 53-mile route.

## POLICE OFFICER OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2008



Chief William McMahon selected Officer Kiron Harrison as Police Officer of the Month for September 2008. During the month of September, Harrison produced six field interrogation reports; 361 business checks, including 40 liquor establishment checks; 41 foot patrols; 104 incidents reported, including 15 insight reports; 91 traffic contacts and 14 arrests.

In only one example of Harrison's outstanding work, he responded to the Howard County Department of Public Works for a reported theft of copper wire. He learned that there had been a number of copper wire thefts from this facility. Harrison's subsequent investigation led to the Maryland Recycle Company where he was able to trace the copper wire sold there to the same copper wire stolen from the Public Works facility. He developed a suspect and made a felony arrest of an employee at the Public Works facility.

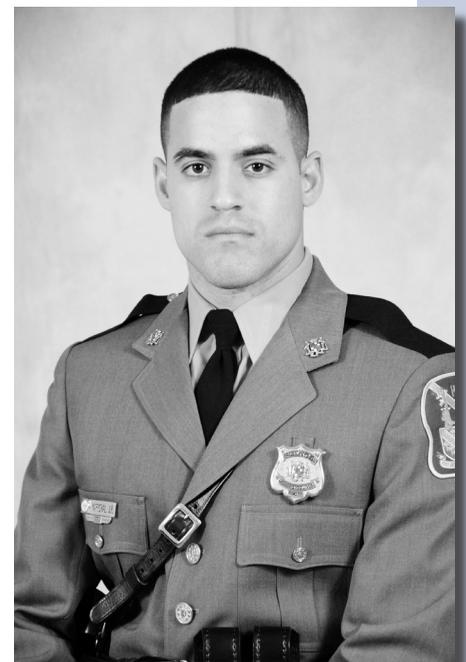
Harrison is a proactive officer who does not wait for a call for service to address community issues. He is quick to volunteer to assist other officers and supervisors with any task. He consistently puts the police department in a positive light with county citizens through his hard work. He is a dedicated officer who displays a great attitude and compassion for the people he serves. Congratulations to Officer Kiron Harrison on his selection as Police Officer of the Month for September 2008.

## POLICE OFFICER OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER 2008

Chief William McMahon selected Officer Jose Marichal as Police Officer of the Month for October 2008. During the month of October, Marichal produced 14 insight reports; 86 incidents reported; 18 arrests, including four felonies, six misdemeanors, two juveniles and six custodial traffic arrests; 81 traffic contacts; two DWIs; 34 foot patrols and 18 hours in court.

In one example of Marichal's fine work, he was dispatched to a theft of DVDs from Borders Books. He met with the store manager who provided the suspects' descriptions and the vehicle tag number. With that information, Marichal identified and spoke with the owner of the vehicle, who advised she loaned her vehicle to a neighbor. He identified and received an arrest warrant for the neighbor, who confessed her involvement as well as the involvement of two other suspects, including the vehicle owner, during the interview. Marichal interviewed the vehicle owner again and received another confession. He was able to locate the Baltimore pawn shop where the DVDs were pawned and charged all three suspects accordingly.

Marichal's professional performance and tenacity during several investigations illustrates his strong work ethic and eagerness to investigate calls beyond what is typically expected of a patrol officer. He consistently shows his willingness to assist other officers as well. Marichal also support the department's commitment to making the roadways in Howard County safe. Congratulations to Officer Jose Marichal on his selection as Police Officer of the Month for October 2008.



## POLICE MOURN LOSS OF FELLOW OFFICER

Howard County Police remembered an officer and friend Dec. 12 at the funeral of PFC Patrick McDonald, who died off-duty Dec. 6. "Pat was a dedicated police officer, proud to wear our uniform and he served his community with honor," said Chief William McMahon at the funeral. "He will be missed."

Pat was assigned as a patrol officer in the police department's northern district after spending many years patrolling the southern district. He also spent time as a detective investigating property crimes in the early 1990's.

In May 2008, Pat received the Maryland Retailers Association's Law Enforcement Award for his outstanding work at the Mall in Columbia. In 2007, he arrested dozens of shoplifters and recovered thousands of dollars in merchandise. "Pat knew the merchants, he knew the regular customers...and, yes, he knew the bad guys," said Chief McMahon. "He used that knowledge to make that mall a safe place to be."

During his career, Pat received a Silver Star for courage and bravery. He was named Police Officer of the Month twice and was nominated six additional times. Pat was awarded a unit citation with his patrol platoon in 2005 and received numerous memorandums of recognition throughout his years of service.

Pat married his wife Nicole early in 2008 and left behind four stepchildren. Numerous contributions in Pat's memory have been made to the Howard County Police Foundation. Those interested in making a donation should contact Lt. Michele Denton at 3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD, 21043.



*PFC Pat McDonald was laid to rest on Dec. 12 at Meadowridge Memorial Park in Elkridge.*

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS BUSY IN 2008

The Howard County Police Department's auxiliary officers worked hard in 2008. These dedicated volunteers provided a variety of support services to patrol officers and citizens. Throughout the year, they continued to be an invaluable resource to the agency.

In 2008, auxiliary officers handled many assignments, including DUI checkpoints, traffic direction and area checks. They also handled abandoned vehicles and assisted many motorists in need. The auxiliaries tagged or towed 3,235 abandoned vehicles and issued 2,506 parking citations. For the year, the auxiliaries logged approximately 9,901 hours of volunteer time.

Since the auxiliary officer program began in 1995, these dedicated men and women have volunteered more than 109,858 hours of service. Current members of the program include: Tom Aston, Ed Curry, Frank Derby, Herb Michael, Ed Wallace, Paul Bertulis, Randy Allen, Mike Baxter, John Farmer, Jon Johnson, Pieter Lucas, Dave Miller, Kenneth Wood, Paul Turner, Darryl Bowles, Mike Teerlink, Mike Heinmuller and Mark Kelley. Nick Shearman also was a member of the program until November 2008.

To show its appreciation, the department will host its annual appreciation dinner Feb. 10. Chief McMahon and County Executive Ulman are expected to be in attendance.

## K-9 SCAN RESULTS IN DRUG ARREST, AWARD FOR TEAM

Congratulations to PFC Mike Ensko and K-9 Hadson for winning a quarterly award from the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA).

Ensko and Hadson were recognized for a case in which they conducted a vehicle drug scan during a patrol traffic stop on Little Patuxent Parkway. Hadson alerted on the car, which was searched by officers. The officers discovered drugs and paraphernalia in the vehicle and a search warrant was written for the suspect's residence. The search of the house resulted in the discovery of a large quantity of heroin, two large suitcases containing \$5.4 million dollars in cash and an assault rifle. The suspect was charged with numerous violations, including drug distribution, drug possession and illegal possession of a regulated firearm.



With the great initial work of Ensko and Hadson, this potentially dangerous suspect was taken into custody. Their win now places them in the running for the case of the year with the USPCA.

## JOIN THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Have you considered "taking the Plunge"? Join the Howard County Police Plungers at the 2009 MSP Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 24 to help raise money for the Maryland Special Olympics. All employees, friends and family are welcome.

Get cold in the Chesapeake Bay for a great cause! Register with the HCPD team and get a free bus ride to the event at Sandy Point State Park. Visit [www.plungemd.com](http://www.plungemd.com) or contact Lt. Mary Levy for more information or to register.

## RETIRED HCPD OFFICER RECOGNIZED FOR HEROISM

One retired HCPD member recently proved that his instincts and training as a Howard County police officer remain strong, even years after leaving the agency. Retired Sgt. Steven Keller, who left the HCPD in 1999, received a Medal of Valor Jan. 9 from the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department in North Carolina for saving the life of a man trapped inside a burning vehicle.

The victim survived the crash and was last reported to be in fair condition at the hospital. Congratulations to retired Sgt. Keller for his heroic actions!



## NEW ARRIVALS\*

PFC Penelope Branch gave birth to daughter Charlee Jolie Camp on November 20. Charlee weighed in at 7 lbs., 11oz.

PFC Jack Mould and wife Rachel are the parents of a new daughter, Charlotte Kate Mould. Charlotte was born on November 26 and weighed in at 8 lbs., 7 oz.

Ryan Niessner of the Communications Division and his wife Kristin are the parents of a new son, Jamison Brody Niessner. Jamison was born on December 9 and weighed in at 8 lbs., 9 oz.

Dan Jefferies and his wife Nicole are the parents of a new daughter, Brooke Elizabeth Jefferies. Brooke was born on January 7 and weighed in at 8 lbs., 5 oz.

Tech Corporal Mike Mui and his wife Selina are the parents of a new baby boy. Matthew Mui was born on January 14.

Congratulations to all the new arrivals and their families!

*\*Beginning with the Feb. 2009 issue, The Beat will discontinue the "New Arrivals" column. Please continue to look for these exciting announcements in e-mail.*

# CHIEF WILLIAM MCMAHON NAMED 2008 "BEST OF" BY HOWARD MAGAZINE

The December 2008 edition of Howard Magazine named Howard County Police Chief William McMahon as "best police officer." The "Best of" winners are chosen by Howard Magazine readers and cover a wide variety of county businesses and services.



## best police officer

**Bill McMahon**

**years of service: 22**

"It doesn't matter if you're in the police academy or have 25 years in, we're all here for the same reason: We want to make our community a safer place."



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